17: Heizer--421 E-3 (no date)1943 Kamchadal-1-4
116, 225, 278

"Steller [CMC: G.W. Steller. Beschreibung von dem Lande Kamtschatka. Frankfurt and Leipzig] (1774, pp. 98, 103, ftn. (a)) has left the best description of Kamchadal whaling: (2)

2. The accounts of Asiatic whaling by Tooke[CMC: W. Tooke, View of the Russian Empire during the Reign of Catherine the Second and to the Close of the Eighteenth Century, 3 vols. Dublin] (1801, vol. 3, pp.18-20) and Krashenninikov[CMC: S. P. Krashenninikov. The History of Kamtschatka and the Kurilski Islands, with the countries adjacent, James Grieve. Gloucester](1764, pp. 138-139) are similar to Steller's fuller description, which I offer here in translation from the German edition.

Whales are also taken in the neighborhood of Kamtschatka in the number of ways which I shall cite here, however inconceivable such seem and are astonishing in view of(the size of) these great sea animals. Around Lapatka (3) and the

3. Cape Lopatka, the southernmost tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Kurile Islands the inhabitants travel into the sea in baidars, (4) seek places at

4. This word ordinarily refers to skin-covered boats; here it means wooden boats with dugout hulls and built-up side planks (cf. Torii, [CMC: R. Torii. Les Ainous des Iles Kouriles. Journ. Coll. Sci. Tokyo Imperial University, vol. 42] 1919, pp. 178-183).

which these are accustomed to sleep; as many animals as they meet, so many do they shoot with poisoned arrows, whereby they suddenly puff out (become animated?) storm and rage frightfully and go (down) into (sound) the sea, and it happens now and then, that one or more, at times even none of them, are cast upon the shore. When the Kuriles obrain a whale, (5) no one begins to cut it up until all are

5. Presumably this refers to the moment when the whale, previously attacked, has come ashore as already described by Steller.

assembled; first shamanizing takes place, each one puts on his best clothes, and carries home his portion, after this one yurt entertains the other. Before and after the entertainment they give their dance, and otherwise delight themselves in all sorts

of ways, which will be treated in what follows.

As soon as a whale comes to the land in Kamchatka, they fasten it with a thin line to a little stick stuck in the sand, and believe certainly on this account, that neither the spirits nor the sea nor Gamuti, or spirits of the land, can any longer have any claim to it.

Further descriptions of the Kamchadal whale fishery are passing references, (6) or

6. Steller, 1774, pp. 100, 103, ftn (a); Krashenninikov, 1764, p. 141. Von Langsdorff [CMC: G.H. von Langsdorff, Voyages and Travels in Various parts of the World, during the years 1803...1807, London] (1813, p. 262) and Petroff [CMC: Ivan Petroff. Report on the Population, Industries and Resources of Alaska. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of the Census](1884, p. 146) deny Kamchadal whaling. By Von Langsdorff's time the practice may have been forgotten.

are seemingly traceable to Steller's original account.

Whaling in the Kurile Islands between Yezo and the Kamchatka peninsula is recorded, but not described adequately. Krashenninikov says (1764, p. 138; see also Steller,

1774, p. 98) the 'Kuriles (kill whales) by throwing poison darts into them.' The same author (7) notes that the southern Kurilians (i.e., Ainu) feed on whale'fat. Shelekhoff

7. Krashenninikov, 1764, p. 39. La Pérouse, [CMC: J.F.G. de La Pérouse. A Voyage round the World, performed in the years 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788 by the Boussole and Astrolabe, 2 vols. London] 1799, pp. 59-60, 75. Drift whales cast ashore on Etorup are mentioned in Neue Beschreibung, [CMC: Neue Beschreibing der Kurilischen Inseln, in P.S. Pallas, Neue Nordische Beytrage, vol. II, St. Petersburg and Leipzig] 1782 p. 134.

[CMC: G. Shelekhoff. Voyages of G. Shelekhoff, from the Year 1783 to 1790, St. Petersburg. MS translation by Ivan Petroff in Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley](1812, vol. 1, p. 128) states that the Japenese receive whale oil from the Matmai Kuriltze. (8)

8. The Kurile Islands, except the two northernmost opposite Cape Lopatka, were occupied by Ainu. These two northern islands, Paramushir and Shumshiri, were inhabited by Kamchadal. There are a few slight indications that others of the Kurile Islands may have been occupied by Kanchadal, or, at any rate, strongly culturally influenced from Kamchatka."

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"Steller (1774, pp. 235-236, ftn. a) says of the southern Kamchadal, [CMC: The following quote from Steller given in German in the text: 'Nonetheless such were very much feared because they (i.e. the Kamchadal) poisoned them by gluing on powder from the root of the Napelli (Aconitum napellus?) which in Russian is called Ludik.] Shelekhoff (75) says, ' Paramushir Island has a plant called Liutik, with the roots of which the na-

75. Shelekhoff, 1812, vol.1, p. 90. Neue Beschreibung...1782, p. 118. Paramushir was occupied by Kamchadal. In fact, at least the two northernmost islands of the Kurile chain (Paramushir and Sumshiri), and perhaps still others, were not held by Ainu, but by Kamchadal. This implies Ainu-Kamchadal contacts and probable cultural interchange. We know, for example, they both hunted whales in the same manner.

tives paint themselves and into its juice they dip the points of their arrows, to kill animals.' Krashenninikov's statement (1764, p. 42) about 'poisonous herbs, whose roots are as yellow as saffron and as thick as rhubarb, and are well known to the inhabitants of the first Kurilskoy island...' may refer to the same plant. Lewin(76)identified the

76. Lewin, [CMC: L. Lewin. Die Pfeilgifte. Leipzig.] 1923, pp. 174-175.

'zgate' spoken of by Krashenninikov (77) as Anemone ranunculoides. Thus, there seems

77. Krashenninikov, 1764, pp. 92-93.

to be not a single clear reference to aconite poison from Kamchatka, but of Anemone. There can be little doubt but that this poison extracted from roots is related to the high development in the area to the south and southeast."